

## Message Text

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ACDA-05 SCA-01 EB-07 CU-02 COME-00 VO-03 TRSE-00

BIB-01 DHA-02 /080 W

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P R 301215Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9082

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOCISIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PRAGUE 2771

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR CSCE CZ  
SUBJECT: CSCE IMPLEMENTATION

REF: STATE 231043

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN CZECHOSLOVAK POLICY OR PRACTICE SINCE THE CSCE FINAL ACT WAS SIGNED, SO THAT THE PRESENT CHECKLIST IS PRIMARILY AN INVENTORY OF CSSR PERFORMANCE AT THE TIME OF HELSINKI.

2. OUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES COMBINE SKEPTICISM ABOUT ANY BIG BREAKTHROUGHS (ESPECIALLY IN BASKET III) WITH THE CAUTIOUS HOPE THAT THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WILL BE INDUCED GRADUALLY TO MAKE GESTURES IN VARIOUS FIELDS THAT, TAKEN TOGETHER, MIGHT BE MEANINGFUL OVER THE LONG TERM. (SEE PRAGUE 2502 NOTAL FOR NATO AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION.) DURING ASSISTANT HARTMAN'S VISIT OCT 8-10, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BOTH SPOKE OF STUDIES UNDERWAY REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT. OTHER MFA OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT INDICATE THAT THEY AT LEAST UNDERSTAND MANY PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT IN THE SAME WAY WE DO, AND IN SOME CASES--FOR EXAMPLE DIVIDED FAMILIES--ARE ACTIVELY WORKING ON IMPLEMENTATION. THE MAIN PRESS ORGANS BOTH IN THE CZECH LANDS AND IN SLOVAKIA HAVE PUBLISHED THE FULL TEXT OF THE FINAL ACT, AND WE KNOW THAT THE CITIZENRY OF THIS COUNTRY ARE AWARE OF THE HELSINKI PROVISIONS AND ARE MAKING REFERENCE TO THEM. (IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL ABROAD, FOR EXAMPLE, WE BELIEVE THE FINAL ACT WILL CONSTITUTE A KIND OF PRESSURE TOWARDS LIBERALIZATION ON THE AUTHORITIES.)

3. WE TEMPER ANY OPTIMISM WITH LARGE DOSES OF REALISM, FOR THIS IS, AS 1968 ONCE AGAIN PROVED, A WESTERN COUNTRY HELD PRISONER WITHIN AN ALIEN SYSTEM. WE SIMPLY DO NOT  
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NOW FORESEE ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES. EVEN WITH REGARD TO RELATIVELY MINOR LIBERLIALIZATION STEPS, THREE MONTHS OF THE SPIRIT OF HELSKINI IS CERTAINLY INSUFFICIENT IN ANY EVENT TO OVERCOME SOME TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF THE SPIRIT OF STALIN, GOTTWALD AND NOVOTNY. IN ADDITION TO THEIR LEGACY, PROBLEMS ARE COMPOUNDED HERE BY THE TURGID CZECHOSLOVAK BUREAUCRACY, MADE FAMOUS IN VERY DIFFERENT WAY BY BOTH KAFKA AND THE GOOD SOLDIER SVEJK. MOREOVER, THE POISON-PEN GANG OVER

AT AGITPROP HEADQUARTERS ARE NOTORIOUS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA;  
WE CITE ONE PARAGRAPH FROM THE LABOR UNION DAILY PRACE  
(OCT 16), ON THE CSSR BORDER GUARDS ON THE DANUBE, TO SHOW  
WHAT WE FACE: "TRANSLATIONS OF SOLZHENITSYN'S ANTI-SOVIET  
PAMPHLET 'GULAG ARCHIPELAGO'. COPIES OF DUBCEK'S  
VILIFYING LETTERS. HECKLING LEAFLETS. LETTERS FROM EMIGRANTS.  
BIBLES, RELIGIOUS LITERATURE. TEN QUINTALS OF THIS PERFIDIOUS  
PRINTED MATTER ARE APPREHENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE FRONTIER  
GUARD OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL UPRISING DURING ONE YEAR  
ONLY. IN ADDITION TO PILES OF SAINTS' PICTURES, ROSARIES AND  
RECORDS DEFAMING OUR SOCIALIST SYSTEM. DIVERSIONISTS, SPIES,  
CRIMINALS, EMIGRANTS, DUBIOUS TOURISTS--THESE ARE THE  
INDIVIDUALS WHO TRY TO SMUGGLE THESE WEAPONS OF THE IMPERIALIST  
IDEOLOGICAL ARSENAL INTO OUR COUNTRY REGARDLESS THE RESULTS  
OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. BUT FOR SEVERAL YEARS THEIR  
DIRTY WORK HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED ON OUR "BLUE" FRONTIER. THEY  
SHALL NOT PASS\*"

4. OUR CHECKLIST FOLLOWS. PARAS 5 THROUGH 11 BELOW CORRESPOND  
TO PARAS 6 THROUGH 12 OF REFTEL. IN CASES WHERE STATISTICS  
ARE PROVIDED, THEY ARE FOR THE PERIOD MAY 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 29,  
1975, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

5. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR U.S. BUSINESSMEN:

A. BEYOND OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN TRADE CORPORATIONS WHO ARE  
AUTHORIZED TO MEET AND DEAL WITH FOREIGNERS, ACCESS TO  
INDUSTRY TRUSTS, END-USERS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING  
EQUIPMENT FROM WEST IS GENERALLY VERY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE IN  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, PARTICULARLY FOR FIRMS WHICH ARE NEW-TO-  
MARKET. OF COURSE, THERE ARE WESTERN FIRMS WHO HAVE OVER  
BUILT UP THEIR REPUTATION AS RELIABLE SUPPLIERS TO VARIOUS  
INDUSTRIES AND WHO MAY AS A RESULT ENJOY SOMEWHAT BETTER  
ACCESS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE END-USERS THAN WOULD BE THE GENERAL  
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CASE FOR OTHERS. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, CZECHOSLOVAK INTERNAL  
PROCEDURES MUST BE JUDGED AS BEING VERY RESTRICTIVE IN THIS  
SPHERE. CERTAINLY--EXCEPT AT OCCASIONAL TRADE FAIR--EMBASSY  
ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS HAVE NOT ENJOYED ANYTHING LIKE  
ACCESS TO INDUSTRIAL OR AGRICULTURAL END-USERS THAT WE CONSIDER  
NECESSARY FOR PROPER PERFORMANCE OF OUR TRADE PROMOTION  
FUNCTION. BECAUSE OUR EMBASSY IS UNDER ROUND-THE-CLOCK  
SURVEILLANCE BY REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE POLICE, THERE IS AN  
UNDERSTANDABLE RELUCTANCE ON PART OF CZECHOSLOVAK COMMERCIAL  
PEOPLE IN GENERAL, AND END-USERS AND TECHNICIANS IN PARTICULAR,  
TO CALL ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OFFICERS THERE.  
B. PAN AMERICAN IS THE ONLY U.S. BUSINESS OFFICE IN CZECHO-  
SLOVAKIA. AT PRESENT, CZECHOSLOVAK LAW PROHIBITS ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF PERMANENT COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN COUNTRY BY REPRESENTA-  
TIVES OF WESTERN FIRMS. DESPITE THIS STRICTURE, SOME FOURTEEN

JAPANESE COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES HAVE OPENED SALES PROMOTION  
OFFICES, PRINCIPALLY IN HOTEL ROOMS. TWO BRITISH FIRMS AND  
PERHAPS AN AUSTRIAN FIRM HAVE MADE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS,

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BIB-01 DHA-02 /080 W

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P R 301215Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9083

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE MAY BE CARRYING OUT THEIR ACTIVITIES UNDER GUISE OF SPARE PARTS SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE CENTERS. THERE MAY ALSO BE ONE OR TWO SWISS FIRMS DOING BUSINESS THROUGH PERMANENT DOMESTIC OUTLETS. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS EXPLAIN THESE ANOMALIES AS A RESULT OF POLICIES PURSUED DURING THE "CONFUSED PERIOD" IN 1968 AND 1969, AND ASSERT THAT IT WOULD NOW BE "IMPOLITIC" TO ASK FIRMS NOW TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS AND GO AWAY. IN ANY EVENT, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT LAW WILL SOON BE CHANGED TO ALLOW PERMANENT COMMERCIAL OFFICES (I.E., SALES OFFICES) TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, PERHAPS BY BEGINNING OF 1976. THE MAJOR PROBLEM THEREAFTER WILL BE EXTREME SHORTAGE OF OFFICE SPACE IN PRAGUE, AND OF QUALIFIED STAFF. AS REGARDS REPRESENTATION AGENCIES WITHIN COUNTRY, THERE ARE ELEVEN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT COMMERCIAL FOREIGN (WESTERN) FIRMS. ALTHOUGH SOME FEW, MAINLY LARGER, FIRMS HAVE ENTERED INTO CONTRACTS WITH THESE AGENCIES, REPORTS OF SATISFACTION ARE SPOTTY AND THERE ARE GENERAL COMPLAINTS THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK AGENCIES LACK CAPACITY TO DO FULL-SCALE MARKETING JOB.

C. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN PRAGUE AND OUTLYING PARTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED ADEQUATE FOR PRESENT VOLUME OF COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS FROM WEST. MAJOR EXCEPTION TO THIS IS DIFFICULTY WITH HOTEL ROOMS EXPERIENCED BY ALMOST EVERYONE EITHER PARTICIPATING IN OR ONLY ATTENDING BRNO ENGINEERING FAIR IN SEPTEMBER. MOST HOTELS ARE EQUIPPED WITH MODERN TELEX AND CABLE FACILITIES, AND TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, ARE GENERALLY GOOD ALTHOUGH EXTREMELY TIME-CONSUMING AND EXPENSIVE. CZECHOSLOVAK RATES FOR TELEX, CABLES, AND TELEPHONE CALLS OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THOSE WITHIN COMECON, ARE ROUGHLY THREE TIMES AS HIGH AS SIMILAR MODES OF MESSAGE TRANSMISSION COMING INTO COUNTRY. THIS PUTS A SIGNIFICANT COST BURDEN ON BUSINESSMEN WISHING TO BE IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THEIR HOME OFFICES WHILE ABROAD. AS

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REGARDS RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS PREMISES, PROBLEM HAS NOT ARISEN, AT LEAST WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN, GIVEN CURRENT PROHIBITION AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT WESTERN COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ONCE PROMISED NEW LAW TAKES EFFECT, HOWEVER, THIS PROBLEM WILL MOST CERTAINLY EMERGE AS ONE OF MOST DIFFICULT WITH WHICH BUSINESSMEN RESIDING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL HAVE TO DEAL. PLANS ARE REPORTEDLY AFOOT TO CONSTRUCT A LARGE TRADE CENTER IN PRAGUE TO HOUSE FOREIGN FIRMS, BUT THIS IS A LONG-TERM PROJECT WHICH WILL PROBABLY NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL 1980 AT THE EARLIEST.

D. A SEVERELY RESTRICTIVE LAW REGARDING STATE SECRETS IS PROBABLY MAIN REASON WHY SO MUCH OF WHAT IS PUBLISHED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WAY OF ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL REPORTS IS SO OFTEN LACKING IN SIGNIFICANT DETAIL TO MAKE IT USEFUL EITHER TO MARKET RESEARCHERS OR OTHERS INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROJECTIONS, PARTICULARLY BY INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. NEVERTHELESS, MUCH MATERIAL DOES APPEAR ON PRESS AND IN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS ON ECONOMY AND ITS VARIOUS SECTORS. BUT ALMOST INVARIABLY THESE DATA ARE FLAWED BY LACK OF SPECIFICITY OR ARE CHARACTERIZED BY RELIANCE ON PERCENTAGE INDICATORS WITH NO ABSOLUTE FIGURES WHICH CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS THE BASES UPON WHICH THE PERCENTAGES WERE CALCULATED. FURTHERMORE, A MIXTURE OF PLANNED TARGETS WITH ACTUAL RESULTS AND COMPUTATION OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AGAINST BOTH IS OFTEN CONFUSING AND, PROBABLY INTENTIONALLY, MISLEADING. CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DOES PUBLISH USEFUL GUIDE TO FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (FTOS) WHICH ALSO CONTAINS SOME TRADE AND COMMERCIAL DATA. NO NAMES WITHIN FTOS ARE INCLUDED, HOWEVER, NOR ARE THEY AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE IN READILY USABLE FORM. ONLY MONTHLY PUBLICATION ISSUED BY FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE IS A COMPILATION OF VERY GENERAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE INDICES WHICH COULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY EXPANDED TO MEET NEEDS OF MODERN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ANALYSIS. FOREIGN TRADE LAWS AND REGULATIONS ARE PUBLISHED AND AVAILABLE IN CZECH AND SLOVAK, BUT ONLY IN SUMMARY FORM IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES, WHICH REDUCES THEIR VALUE CONSIDERABLY. RELIABLE PROJECTIONS OF ANY KIND--TRADE OR ECONOMIC--DO NOT EXIST FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, EXCEPT AS CONTAINED IN THE STATE PLAN WHICH IS RARELY DIVULGED IN TOTO.

E. AS OF THIS DATE, THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF NO COOPERATIVE VENTURES OF ANY KIND BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAK PRODUCTION

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ENTERPRISES AND FIRMS OF ANY WESTERN COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

6. FAMILY MEETINGS AND REUNIFICATIONS.

A. 1923 U.S. VISAS ISSUED TO CSSR CITIZENS TO VISIT FAMILY

AND RELATIVES TEMPORARILY.

B. 34 CZECHOSLOVAKS RECEIVED IMMIGRANT VISAS TO JOIN FAMILIES IN U.S. PERMANENTLY.

C. IT IS RELATIVELY MORE DIFFICULT FOR CZECHOSLOVAKS TO OBTAIN EXIT PERMISSION TO VISIT WESTERN COUNTRY (OR YUGOSLAVIA) THAN TO VISIT A "SOCIALIST" COUNTRY. DECISIVE FACTORS IN TRAVEL TO WEST INCLUDE CLOSENESS OF RELATIVES TO BE VISITED (USUALLY THEY MUST BE IMMEDIATE FAMILY) AND WHETHER THEY ARE ABROAD ILLEGALLY IN EYES OF GOC (IN WHICH CASE PERMISSION IS NORMALLY DENIED). AS FOR VISAS TO VISIT CSSR, AMERICANS OF CZECHOSLOVAK ORIGIN WHO EMIGRATED ILLEGALLY ARE OFTEN REFUSED ENTRY PERMISSION. OTHER THAN THIS THERE IS NO ROUTINE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMERICANS WISHING TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

D. PERSONS APPLYING TO VISIT FAMILY TEMPORARILY DO NOT AS A RULE SUFFER PENALTIES, BUT THOSE APPLYING TO EMIGRATE TO CAPITALIST COUNTRIES ARE VIEWED AS HAVING REJECTED SOCIALIST SOCIETY, AND ARE SOMETIMES STRIPPED OF WORK, RIGHT TO STUDY AND OTHER BENEFITS.

E. THE FEE FOR A TEMPORARY TRAVEL PERMIT IS 301 CZ. CROWNS OR \$30.81 AT THE TOURIST RATE OF EXCHANGE. FEES FOR EMIGRATION PERMISSION RANGE FOR \$29.82 TO \$994.03, DEPENDING ON THE AMOUNT OF EDUCATION WHICH MUST BE REIMBURSED.

F. NO RESTRICTIONS AGAINST VISITING RELATIVES IN TOWNS OFF USUAL TOURIST CIRCUIT, BUT VISITORS MUST REGISTER WITH LOCAL POLICE.

G. PRIORITY ISSUANCE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND VISAS IN EMERGENCY CASES HAS NOT BEEN CONSISTENT CZECHOSLOVAK PRACTICE. IN ONE CASE A NATURALIZED AMERICAN OF CZECH ORIGIN WAS PREVENTED FROM VISITING DYING MOTHER IN CSSR BECAUSE HE HAD LEFT ILLEGALLY.

H. THOSE EMIGRATING ARE GENERALLY PERMITTED TO SHIP HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL EFFECTS. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT HIGH CUSTOMS DUTIES MAY CONSTITUTE A PRACTICAL BAR TO EXPORT.

#### 7. BINATIONAL MARRIAGES:

A. SIXTEEN AMERICAN-CZECHOSLOVAK MARRIAGES HAVE COME TO CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR ATTENTION DURING PERIOD MAY1-OCT 30. THE FRG ESTIMATES SOME 200 WEST GERMAN-CZECHOSLOVAK MARRIAGES ANNUALLY.

B. EMBASSY'S LIST OF DIVIDED FAMILIES CONTAINS FOUR CASES OF CZECHOSLOVAKS WHO UNTIL NOW HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO LEAVE TO JOIN U.S. CITIZEN OR RESIDENT SPOUSES. HOWEVER, OUR GENERAL EXPERIENCE, AND THAT OF THE FRG, IS THAT PERMISSION IS NORMALLY GRANTED IN CASES OF BINATIONAL MARRIAGES.

#### 8. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL:

A. (1) 11 CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS RECEIVED B-2 VISAS FOR PERSONAL REASONS SUCH AS TOURISM AND VISITING FRIENDS DURING PERIOD MAY 1 - OCT 30.

(2) POST ISSUED 871 VISAS OF OTHER NON-IMMIGRANT CATEGORIES  
FOR PROFESSIONAL REASONS INCLUDING TRANSIT. PROFESSIONAL  
TRAVEL IS ALMOST ALWAYS UNDER OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP.  
B. NO EVIDENCE OF SIMPLIFICATION OR FLEXIBILITY IN EXIT  
AND ENTRY PROCEDURES HAS BEEN OBSERVED.  
C. THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF AMERICANS AND

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P R 301215Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

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OTHER FOREIGNERS WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH POLICE IF NOT STAYING IN HOTEL.

D. A TEMPORARY TRAVEL PERMIT COST 310 CK CROWNS (\$30.81). A SINGLE-ENTRY CZECHOSLOVAK VISA FOR A U.S. CITIZEN COSTS \$7.00. THERE HAS BEEN NOCHANGE IN THESE FEES SINCE HELSINKI.

9. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

A. THE ONLY U.S. NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES PUBLICLY DISTRIBUTED ARE PARTY ORGANS WHOSE EDITORIAL POLICIES ARE IDENTICAL, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, TO THOSE OF THE LOCAL PRESS. SPECIFICALLY, THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL HERALD-TRIBUNE (OR ANY OTHER WESTERN NON-COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER) IS NOT FOR SALE AT THE AIRPORT OR MAJOR HOTELS, EITHER TO TOURISTS OR TO LOCAL CITIZENS. NO BOOKS FOR GENERAL SALE ARE IMPORTED FROM THE U.S. AVAILABILITY OF ENGLISH-

LANGUAGE WORKS IS LIMITED TO TRANSLATIONS INTO THE CZECH AND SLOVAK LANGUAGES. APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION IN TRANSLATION IS DEPENDENT UPON BOTH SALES POTENTIAL AND POLITICAL SUITABILITY, WITH THE LATTER BEING THE PRIMARY DETERMINANT.

B. WESTERN PUBLICATIONS, OTHER THAN AS NOTED ABOVE, ARE NOT ON SALE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. INsofar AS THEY ARE ACTUALLY ON HAND IN LIBRARIES, ACCESS IS RESTRICTED TO THOSE WITH APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALS, USUALLY WRITTEN CERTIFICATION BY A RESPONSIBLE SUPERIOR THAT SUCH CONSULTATION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S WORK. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY LIBRARY IS THE ONLY PUBLIC INSTITUTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHEREIN A LOCAL CITIZEN CAN REGULARLY SEE SUCH PUBLICATIONS WITHOUT ESTABLISHING A FORMAL REASON FOR SUCH EXAMINATION. WHILE BOTH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH LIBRARIES HAVE SIMILAR PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE, THEIR OFFICE ROUTINE RESULTS IN THESE PUBLICATIONS NOT BEING DEPENDABLE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. BOTH PREMISES ARE BEYOND EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES.

C. INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO WESTERN PUBLICATIONS CAN ONLY BE ARRANGED THROUGH LOCAL PNS PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTION OFFICE. THIS OFFICE WILL ACCEPT SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATIONS  
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ONLY FROM FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, AMERICAN SCHOLARS RESIDENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE NEVER, TO EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, BEEN ALLOWED TO ARRANGE NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS THROUGH PNS. THOSE SCHOLARS WHO SOUGHT SUBSCRIPTIONS DIRECTLY THROUGH THE MAIL FOUND THAT THE PUBLICATIONS EITHER NEVER ARRIVED OR STOPPED ARRIVING AFTER THE FIRST FEW COPIES. LOCAL CITIZENS WHOSE FRIENDS ABROAD ENTERED SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THEM REPORT THAT THEY RECEIVED ONLY A FEW COPIES AT SPORADIC INTERVALS. INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO WESTERN PUBLICATIONS ARE APPROVED ON THE BASIS OF WHETHER THESE PUBLICATIONS ARE NECESSARY TO THE WORK OF THE INSTITUTION. A FURTHER LIMITATION IS IMPOSED BY THE GENERAL LACK OF HARD CURRENCY FOR USE IN GAINING APPROVAL OF SUCH HARD CURRENCY EXPENDITURES DURING THE ANNUAL BUDGET PREPARATION PROCESS.

D. U.S. AND WESTERN FILMS ARE COMMON FARE IN THE THEATERS AND ON LOCAL TELEVISION. IN THE CURRENT WEEK, WHICH IS TYPICAL, OF 221 FILMS BEING SHOWN IN PRAGUE THEATERS, 136 WERE PRODUCED IN "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES AND 85 WERE PRODUCED IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. OF THE "SOCIALIST" TOTAL, 74 FILMS WERE PRODUCED IN THE USSR AND 76, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. OF THE WESTERN FILMS, 25 WERE PRODUCED IN THE U.S. AND 25 IN FRANCE. ONE OR TWO WESTERN FILMS WILL BE BROADCAST ON EVENING TV IN ANY WEEK. CZECHOSLOVAK FILM ROUTINELY ACQUIRES THEATER AND TV DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR ALL NEW WESTERN FILMS OF ANY PROMISE. DECISIONS REGARDING THE ACTUAL SCREENING OF THE FILMS THUS ACQUIRED IS MADE ON THE BASIS OF A POLITICAL EVALUATION OF THEIR CONTENTS. MOST WESTERN FILMS REVIEWED ARE SEEN ONLY BY A LIMITED CIRCLE OF FILM PROFESSIONALS AND THEIR ASSOCIATES. THE LARGE PROPORTION OF WESTERN FILMS CONSTANTLY ON VIEW IN LOCAL THEATERS AND ON LOCAL TV HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SHARP OFFICIAL CRITICISM IN THE PRESS, WITH LITTLE VISIBLE EFFECT TO DATE.

E. RFE AND RADIO LIBERTY ARE JAMMED EFFECTIVELY IN URBAN CENTERS, BUT ARE RECEIVED WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN RURAL AREAS. VOA IS NOT JAMMED.

F. NO RADIO OR TV PLACEMENT. U.S. FILMS ARE LOANED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY LIBRARY TO LOCAL OFFICES AND INSTITUTIONS FOR OFF-PREMISES SHOWINGS. EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY CONCERTED INTERFERENCE IN THIS PROCESS, BEYOND MAINTENANCE OF A GENERAL POLICY OF DISCOURAGING ALL UNOFFICIAL OR

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VOLUNTARY CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY.

10. WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS.

A. VIASAS HAVE BEEN GRANTED DURING CY-75 TO CORRESPONDENTS FROM THE WASHINGTON POST, WASHINGTON STAR, THE NEW YORK TIMES AND OTHERS. A VISA FOR VOA CORRESPONDENT LARRY FREUND WAS DENIED IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

B. THERE ARE NO PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. RESIDENT FOREIGN JOURNALISTS DO HAVE MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS. (THE MFA HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBILITY OF ACCORDING THE SAME STATUS TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS RESIDENT IN OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES WHOSE "BEAT" INCLUDES CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT THIS MAY COME TO NOTHING.)

C. THERE ARE NO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON JOURNALISTS.

D. OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS ARE GRANTED ROUTINELY WHEN APPLICATION IS MADE THROUGH THE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS CENTER OF THE MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT. JOURNALISTS RECEIVING VISAS USUALLY GET THE OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS THEY SEEK. CONTROLS ON CONTACTS WITH PRIVATE SOURCES ARE EXERTED THROUGH 1) PRESSURE ON THE PRIVATE SOURCES, AND 2) MORE OR LESS CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE OF THE JOURNALIST. IF A JOURNALIST RECEIVES A VISA, HE IS ALLOWED TO BRING WITH HIM THE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT SPECIFIED IN HIS REQUEST AS ESSENTIAL TO HIS VISIT.

E. JOURNALISTS MAY FILE UNCENSORED TEXTS THROUGH HOTEL OR POST OFFICE TELEX FACILITIES. EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY INSTANCE IN WHICH WESTERN JOURNALISTS ARE ALLOWED TO USE LOCAL RADIO FACILITIES TO TRANSMIT LIVE PHONELINE FEEDS. DEPARTING JOURNALISTS ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH AT THE BORDER. CURRENT PRACTICE ALLOWS TRANSMISSION OF STORIES UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT, BUT JOURNALISTS ARE MADE AWARE THAT APPROVAL OF FUTURE VISA APPLICATIONS IS AT LEAST IN PART DEPENDENT UPON THE CONTENT OF THE STORIES THEY FILE.

F. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT INSTANCES OF EXPULSION. IF EXPULSION WERE IN QUESTION, EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT JOURNALIST WOULD BE OUT OF COUNTRY IN A MATTER OF HOURS, AND THAT ANY APPEAL WOULD BE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING THE EXPULSION. (THE AFP CORRESPONDENT WAS DENIED EXTENSION OF HER STAY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1974, BUT SHE WAS NOT EXPELLED.)

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11. CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES.

A. EXCHANGES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE IREX BOARD AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECH AND SLOVAK MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND BETWEEN THE U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES HAVE BEEN STEADILY MAINTAINED IN THE POST-1968 REDUCED LEVEL (APPROXIMATELY 15 SCHOLARS TO EACH COUNTRY) FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS. ALTERATION OF THIS RATE HAS BEEN AVOIDED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR TACTICAL REASONS IN ANTICIPATION OF POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE

EVENT THAT A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT MIGHT BE  
SIGNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE EMBASSY AND THE MFA WILL  
BEGIN TALKS IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC  
EXCHANGES AGREEMENT.  
PERRY

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